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DOH-PINELLAS HIGHLIGHTS NATIONAL INFANT IMMUNIZATION WEEK



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The Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County (DOH-Pinellas) recognizes April 21-28 as National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW), an annual observance promoting the benefits of immunizations for children from birth to two years old. NIIW also celebrates the milestones achieved in controlling vaccine-preventable diseases among infants worldwide as a result of immunization.

NIIW is a call to action for parents, caregivers and health care providers to ensure that all children are protected from birth against 14 serious childhood illnesses. It is important that parents and health care providers work together to follow the recommended Advisory Committee on Immunizations (ACIP) schedule to protect infants and children by providing immunity early in life, before they encounter potentially life threatening diseases.

The department is committed to increasing the rate of immunization among Florida's children under two years of age. Recently, the department worked with a diverse group of public and private partners to update the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). Over the next five years, the department and partners will work to increase access to immunizations for infants and pregnant women and increase access to vaccine-preventable diseases in children and teens.

To learn more about the department's immunization-related goals, visit the [SHIP](#) page.

Locally, the Pinellas Immunization Team for Community Health (PITCH) is taking great strides to promote and protect families in Pinellas by improving immunization rates in infants, adolescents and adults. The group is comprised of community partners including DOH-Pinellas, the Pinellas County School Board, hospitals, medical providers, community organizations, individuals and volunteers.

This year, the group is co-sponsoring the 10th Annual Southwest Florida Immunization Workshop on Thursday, May 17, at the State College of Florida at Lakewood Ranch in Sarasota. The no-cost workshop will provide an opportunity for medical professionals to enhance their knowledge about key topics surrounding vaccines and receive free Nursing Continuing Education (CE) credits for license renewal. DOH-Pinellas staff will be providing an immunization exercise as well as a training on the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine.

For more information about the event, including a list of presenters and sponsors, visit www.planetreg.com/E2141481324708.

For more information about DOH-Pinellas, go to www.PinellasHealth.com or follow us on Twitter at [@HealthyPinellas](https://twitter.com/HealthyPinellas).

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